Alongside, enabling policies have also to be put in place to encourage procurement of agricultural commodities directly from farmers' field, establishment of effective linkage between farm production and the retail chain, including food processing industries. Promotion of direct marketing, contract farming and development of competitive agricultural markets in private and cooperative sectors have been identified as key areas of reform, *inter-alia*, requiring amendments to the State APMC Act.

In order to guide the State in implementation of the suggested reforms, the Ministry of Agriculture has formulated a Model State Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act and circulated to all the State Governments/UT Administrations for further necessary action as the subject matter falls within their purview. The aforesaid reforms in the Model Law were discussed in a meeting of State Agriculture Ministers held on 19th November, 2004. All the States/UTs have been requested to suitably amend their APMC Act in the overall national/State interest and more so in the interest of farmers.

With a view to attract large investments for development of agriculture markets in the country, this Ministry has approved a new reform linked scheme under which assistance would be provided to the States, who amends the APMC Act to promote direct marketing, contract farming and competitive markets in private and cooperative sectors. The scheme will be implemented during Tenth Plan with an outlay of Rs. 190 crore for providing subsidy @ 25 per cent of the capital investment and @ 33.33 per cent for NE, hilly and tribal areas and to SC/ST entrepreneurs.

(c) The implementation of the proposed reforms would enable the private and cooperative sectors to make investment in setting up of markets, direct procurement of agricultural commodities from farmers' fields by the food processing industries and retail chains. Once these effective linkages between farm production, processing industries and retail chain are established, this would enable a higher share for the farmers in the price of his agricultural produce.

Costs of items at Mother Dairy outlets

194. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the vegetables and fruits available at Mother Dairy outlets in Delhi are costlier than the prevailing market rates; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to provide quality product at reasonable rates to consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The prices of vegetables and fruits at Mother Dairy outlets in Delhi are competitive with prevailing market rates.

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

National institute for research and development of tropical fruits

†195. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether keeping in view the need of research and development in the field of tropical fruits, any national institute is being established;

(b) whether some places in Uttaranchal were considered for the said research institute;

(c) if so, whether the then Minister of Agriculture had given an assurance for opening one centre of the said institute in Uttaranchal; and

(d) if so, the details of action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Uttaranchal is primarily a region of temperate climate, with pockets of sub-tropical climate in a few places. Research on temperate fruits is already being conducted by the Central Institute for Temperate Horticulture, Srinagar and for Sub-tropical by the Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar and Central Institute for Sub-tropical Horticulture, Lucknow.

Assistance to pig farming scheme of Chhattisgarh

†196. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal during

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.